847 This may occur with a young
[848] mother with an insecure relationship with the father or a child that
[511] is not her husband's. Also, a poor subsistence situation may inspire a woman to neglect or kill her infant. From the confidences expressed, there have occurred about five cases of infanticide over the last ten
842 years. Aside from these measures, some women have expressed desires to limit the number of children they produce but profess a lack of
163 knowledge on how to do so. With every fertile woman approaching the fulfillment of a potential to reproduce twelve to thirteen children, the implications for accelerating population growth are apparent.
[657] Also, with medical attention and other government assistance, the
[165] number of children who survive has increased.

163 Over the last forty years, the reproductive pattern of the Upper
*197 Barama River Carib population seems to have responded to changes in
178 economic conditions. There is no evidence to demonstrate that this population was ever in any long period of equilibrium with regard to its size, or well regulated by cultural practices to maintain it below
175 any direct relationship to fluctuations in local food resources. On
• 931 the contrary, it appears that this population previously underwent conditions of famine from time to time. King (1968:16) reports a drought for Guyana every thirteen to fourteen years. Although there are no direct records kept for the Upper Barama River area, there are
[657] indications of periodic local food shortages. In the six years previous to the establishment of development programs at Baramita Air Strip, the Government was called upon twice to send relief food packages to the Caribs not directly involved in mining. However, by this time, the total population was influenced by the mining

175 economy. The most suggestive insight into a longer familiarity with
731 conditions of famine comes from popular stories. Cannibalism and
[266] other drastic measures in times of subsistence crises are a pronounced
[261] and recurrent theme.

168 It would appear that the behavioral measures designed to limit population have been practiced mainly during times of subsistence stress. Decisions regarding population control were probably made by
168 the mother alone relative to her own circumstances.[17] The net result
163 was a relatively limited rate of reproduction for the total population. These solutions were abandoned as subsistence stresses were alleviated
*179 by the availability of external resources. Since the introduction of
163 employment and other market opportunities and government subventions
511 after 1940, the Upper Barama River Carib population has not been subject to fluctuations in local resources. Even those segments of the population not directly employed have been affected. The point to emphasize is that external resources need not have been constantly available to the total population to affect the reproductive pattern of the total population. Only some access to external resources conveyed through regional networks of exchange needed to be available during times of subsistence crisis.